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WEDNESDAY

Jay Grelen



Staff Columnist

The funeral never ends

Death comes to the victims of Alzheimer's disease long before they actually die. One man says of his stricken mate: "I don't have a wife. I have a body to care for." Those who have lived through it refer to it as a funeral that never ends.

As a patient sinks farther into oblivion, as the brain shrinks and dies, the ones who provide the care become exhausted by the grief and the physical labor. Guilt drops in huge dollops: guilt because you can't help them; guilt for putting them in a nursing home; guilt because sometimes you become angry.

Bunnie Sutton's mother lived with her for the last three years of her Alzheimer's. She died in 1984. Her father died three years later, every bit as much the victim of Alzheimer's as his wife.

Reactions to death by Alzheimer's, Mrs. Sutton says, often fall into two categories: The survivor tries to forget the disease altogether, which is what her father did, or the survivor becomes a zealot. "I became a zealot," she says.

Mrs. Sutton became involved in a local Alzheimer's support group and from there founded the Alzheimer's Association, Southwest Alabama Chapter. One of the fruits of her zeal is the annual Memory Walk, which will be Saturday at 9 a.m. The 2.1-mile route, which walkers will cover twice, starts and ends at the Health Services area at the University of South Alabama. (The number for information is 660-5661.)

Those who want to walk are asked to collect donations before Saturday and turn them in that morning. Those who collect \$50 or more will receive a T-shirt and are eligible for prizes. The money collected here stays with the Mobile chapter to provide support for patients and families in its nine-county area.

One of her dreams, Mrs. Sutton says, is for a day-care center with nurses, a dental chair, and a large shower for bathing, which can be one of the hardest physical chores an elderly mate must perform for a patient.

Short of a day-care center, she would like to see church involvement. "They have all this space that sits unused all week," she says. "They have Mother's Day Out for mothers of children."

Support is hard to come by, she says, because people mistakenly view Alzheimer's "as an old person's disease."

Alzheimer's can begin to develop 20 to 40 years before symptoms appear, she says. The patient's dying brain regresses, as if the patient is living life in reverse. They forget people as they regress; they see themselves as younger and younger. One member of Mrs. Sutton's support group tells of his wife's inability to remember him. "He'll keep trying to tell her he's her husband. She'll say, 'You're not my husband. You're an old man.' "The patients look in the mirror, and they're afraid. They think of themselves as an 8-year-old, and they see an old person in the mirror. The person they see is an impostor. That's frightening."

FBI links drug suspect to slain witness

► Authorities believe Vivian Ann Brown was shot to death in retaliation for her courtroom testimony

By MICHAEL WILSON
Staff Reporter

An FBI affidavit filed in Mobile federal court links a Mobile body shop owner to government witness Vivian Ann Brown, who authorities believe was shot to death

in retaliation for her courtroom testimony. A sworn affidavit by FBI special agent Alan Ducote implicates Perry Malone of Mobile as a crack dealer and suggests Malone knew that Ms. Brown testified against him.

Based on the FBI affidavit, Malone was arrested Sept. 26 and charged with conspiring to sell crack. He remains in Mobile County Metro Jail awaiting a detention hearing and preliminary examination, scheduled for Friday.

"I'm well aware that he is a prime suspect in that murder case," said defense

lawyer Donald Partridge, who represented Malone after the arrest.

In her Aug. 21 testimony in the Mobile federal trial of another man, Mack Arthur Thomas, Ms. Brown implicated Malone as a crack dealer. She was shot to death a month later in her front yard in north Mobile in an apparent ambush, police have said.

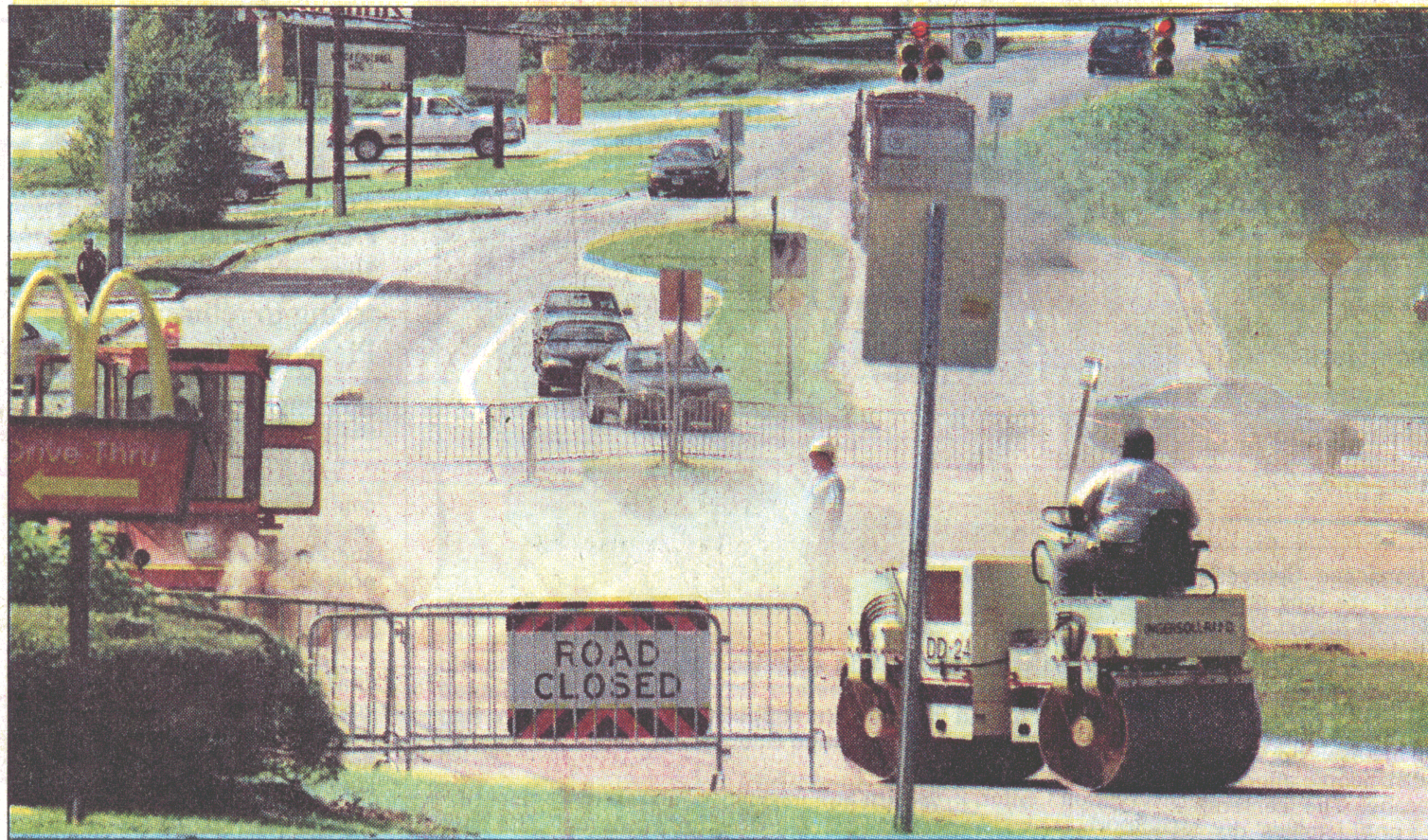
Thomas was in jail at the time of the shooting and remains in Mobile County Metro Jail awaiting sentencing.

"No one has been arrested for this homicide, and Mobile homicide detectives

have told me that various people whom they have interviewed knew that Vivian Brown was assisting federal authorities," the FBI affidavit, written three days after the shooting, on Sept. 25, states.

"The people interviewed suspect that her murder could be in retaliation for her cooperation. At least two of Perry Malone's family members sat through the trial of United States v. Mack Thomas and overheard Vivian Brown's and another witness' testimony."

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MARY HATTLER/Staff Photographer

Paving work continues at a feverish pace Tuesday to finish and reopen this section of Old Shell Road near University Boulevard. By this morning, commuters should be able to use this area of Old Shell Road. The city of Mobile expedited repairs since two lanes collapsed during and after Hurricane Georges at the Twelvemile Creek drainage crossing.

Paved with good intentions

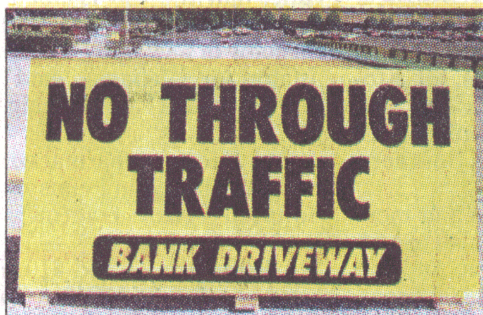
By JANE NICHOLS
and RONNI PATRIQUIN CLARK
Staff Reporters

This morning, frustrated commuters again should be able to use Old Shell Road at University Boulevard, although the freshly repaired westbound lanes could be a tight squeeze.

The city of Mobile has expedited repairs since two lanes fell in during and after Hurricane Georges at the Twelvemile Creek drainage crossing. But with all four lanes of Old Shell closed and the University of South Alabama open, "rush hour" became an oxymoron and motorists grew creative in their search for a way around the intersection.

The daylong traffic jams were exacerbated Monday when USA closed off the parking lot that had become the most popular shortcut.

"We're not causing any traffic jam," said Dale Adams, vice president for student affairs at USA. "People were just flying through our parking lot, at 25 and 30 miles per hour, to get over to Old Shell.



A bank at the corner of Old Shell Road and University Boulevard posts this sign to ward off more traffic problems resulting from the road closing.

"It was endangering our students and faculty. It looked like Old Shell Road over in our parking lot, people whizzing through there."

USA officials also had expected Old Shell to be open Saturday, and that was the original plan, said city Chief of Staff Al Stokes. But last-minute problems with utility lines delayed repairs, and Mon-

day's heavy rains meant the contractor couldn't finish the underlying work and pour asphalt, Stokes said.

Mobile police confirmed the road was open Tuesday night. Motorists should still take care, however, because the newly filled-in and resurfaced westbound lanes will be narrower than they used to be, said traffic engineering director Bill Metzger.

Monday was a motorist's nightmare, said Ed Majure, owner of the Mane Attraction beauty salon one-half block east of the damaged area. "People were cursing and hollering," he said.

Customers of his wife and other hairdressers at the salon were as much as an hour late for appointments, and Majure said he spent an hour on Bit & Spur Road trying to get into the area.

Majure said he called Mayor Mike Dow and received return calls from both the mayor and Adams on Tuesday morning assuring him they were trying to unsnarl the traffic.

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Serpent service goes on

► The Rev. John Wayne Brown Jr. keeps preaching for 15 minutes before dying from a rattlesnake bite

Associated Press

MACEDONIA, Ala. — Caught up in a serpentine spell, the Rev. John Wayne Brown Jr. kept preaching for 15 minutes after a 4-foot timber rattler sank its fangs into his hand during a snake-handling service.

Brown eventually collapsed and, as worshippers gathered round, died. Despite the deadly message, members of the Rock House Holiness Church have no plans to change their practices.

"We still believe in the same thing," said the Rev. Billy Summerford, pastor of the little Jackson County church.

Brown, known as "Punkin," had been bitten 22 times through the years before the final strike. His wife Melinda died in August 1995 after being bitten while handling a snake at a church in Kentucky. The couple leaves five children.

"It was the hand of God. It was his time to go," said the Rev. Carl Porter, a serpent-handling pastor of a church in Kingston, Ga., who came to Rock House Holiness Church within hours after Brown died. "He was really looking forward to that day anyway."

Brown, 34, of Parrottsville, Tenn., was bitten Saturday. He was holding the snake in his right hand when it bit him on the middle finger of his left, between the knuckle and first joint, said Jackson County Sheriff's Chief Investigator Chuck Phillips.

The Rev. Gene Sherbert, of Temple, Ga., was next to Brown. "He looked at me and I knew he was bit, and I put it (the snake) back in the box," he said.

Brown continued to speak but faltered about 15 minutes later, Sherbert said. The 50 to 75 attending the service gathered around Brown, prayed and tried to make him comfortable by putting an electric fan above him, he said.

Brown died within minutes, and no criminal charges will be filed, Phillips said.

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Gift boosts Bama's medicine program

By MATTHEW TEAGUE
Staff Reporter

Celia Wallace, chief executive officer of Springhill Memorial Hospital, has pledged \$1 million to create a professorship of family medicine at the University of Alabama School of Medicine.

The professorship, or chair, was created in honor of Ms. Wallace's late husband, Dr. Gerald Wallace. He was an Alabama health care pioneer and founder of Springhill Memorial Hospital.

"He graduated from the University of Alabama, so I'm sure he would approve," Ms. Wallace said Tuesday at a celebration of the endowment.

The university's medical school is "quite prestigious," she



Blum ... first chair holder

said, so it was an obvious recipient for her donation. "And yes," she added with a laugh, "I saw my first Alabama-Auburn football game when I was 3 years old. So Roll Tide."

Wallace's cigar habit led to his death by lung cancer, Ms. Wallace said. "If Gerald had not

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Testimony begins today in Foley clerk killings case

► Calvin Stallworth is accused of stabbing convenience store clerks, robbing stores

By ALAN CHOATE
Staff Reporter

BAY MINETTE — Jurors in the capital murder trial of Calvin Stallworth were told Tuesday that police "psychologically coerced" confessions from the man charged with stabbing two convenience store clerks and robbing the stores while his victims lay dying.

In his opening argument, defense attorney Wayne Doerr called the evidence "circumstantial" and said law enforcement officers "used" Stallworth while under pressure to arrest someone quickly.

But District Attorney David Whetstone outlined evidence he

said would connect Stallworth to both slayings, including admissions that he was at the stores in Foley when the women were killed last December and that he had taken money and items from the stores.

Stallworth, 28, of Foley, is accused of killing Nancy Dukes, 43, of Foley, and Linda Morton, 49, of Loxley. Since he is accused of committing the murders during robberies, he could face the death penalty or life in prison without parole if convicted in either case.

Testimony begins at 8 a.m. today before presiding Baldwin

Circuit Judge James Reid. The jury in the case has been sequestered for the trial, expected to last two weeks.

"We have two women murdered in small-town Foley," Whetstone said. "A horrible, cutting, slashing murder. Both women alone. Both worked at convenience stores. Both stores were located on Highway 59.

"Who did these terrible, despicable, horrible, cowardly acts in Foley, Alabama, at Christmastime? The grand jury has charged Calvin Stallworth with both these murders based on the evidence you (will) see here."

For example, Whetstone said, Stallworth admitted to police that he was at the stores when the women were killed, and he admitted taking money and oth-

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Stallworth